

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



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DP/PROJECTS/7306

ENGLISH

APPROVAL OF UNDP UNDO ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF MAURITANIA

IPF: (1992-1996) \$23 222 000
(MAU/92/001) - (UNSO/MAU/92/X01)

Sand Dune Encroachment Control and Rural Development Project (Phase III)

Date of approval by the AC: ^{1/}	10 June 1992
Expected duration:	Five years
Proposed executing agency:	1992-1994: FAO; 1994-1997: Government
Government implementing agency:	Ministry of Rural Development and Environment
Proposed UNDP contribution:	\$ 898 900
Proposed UNDO contribution:	\$4 406 800
Total UNDP/UNDO budget:	\$5 305 700
Source of funds:	UNDP: IPF UNDO: General Resources (Danida)

Project background

In 1981 the Government of Mauritania, assisted by UNDO and UNDP, embarked upon a pilot programme for the stabilization of sand dunes, which starting in 1983, was implemented at 15 sites with a study and research component (identification of species, sand dune movement), training of national staff, the creation of awareness and the introduction of techniques for fixation among the local population (curative desertification control). During its second phase (1987) the project expanded to 64 sites and added an integrated agro-silvo-pastoral pilot programme introducing pasture rotation, improvement of natural grazing areas, harvesting and conservation of fodder, woodlots, watershed management and building of small dams at 13 sites (preventive desertification control).

Since July 1991 the project has operated under a "transitional phase". During the past year a total of 23 new sites were assisted, raising the number of direct project beneficiaries to date to an estimated 45,000 people. During the same period the project has handed over the first 26 sites to the local populations, for their own management. Most importantly, the project has received "remarkable support" and "enthusiasm" from the local population (cf. evaluation report) who have throughout made more requests for interventions than the project team is able to undertake. This has led to a strong effect of imitation: 15 villages are known to have started their own desertification control measures independently. The project team seeks to provide small tools and advice to these initiatives, as far as they are known.

^{1/} This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.

Description of project

The project in its third phase will continue to pursue its earlier objectives of protecting villages and infrastructures from sand encroachment, as these have been found valid by the in-depth evaluation, and practical by the beneficiaries.

In this final phase, the project's emphasis will shift towards: (a) enabling the village associations to take charge of and manage the natural resources in their respective areas; (b) playing a pioneer role in monitoring those villages, where project interventions are completed and responsibility for managing the site has officially been handed over to the village associations; (c) through, inter alia, sociological and village case studies, training sessions and inter-village meetings, aiming to enhance knowledge of a sustainable and integrated approach towards the management of natural resources by rural organizations; (d) in line with Government's policy of decentralization, cooperating with, working through and increasing responsibility of the concerned Government services at regional level; (e) implementing protective measures in 30 new sites annually covering a total of 2,500 hectares over five years, while 250 existing project sites will be consolidated, maintained and handed over; (f) envisaging through the preventive treatment of 49 sites integrated rural development schemes that have proven successful in the pilot phase; (g) providing pasture improvement, the cultivation of 4,000 hectares by using soil conservation, reforestation and water-harvesting techniques, combined with the establishment of a revolving fund for credit; (h) selecting three sites representing different types of soil and rainfall patterns to prepare generic village land management schemes, which are then translated into a scheme for each site and adopted by the village management committees; (i) establishing an extensive training programme at village, regional and central levels as well as a detailed economic evaluation that will help determine economic feasibility; and (j) preparing total absorption of Government technical services at regional level, inter-alia, through a series of seminars and training events, the preparation of technical guidelines, and gradual takeover by nationals.

Inputs

UNDP will provide the technical assistance: a chief technical adviser (24 work-months), 20 work-months of consultancies and three national experts totalling 168 work-months. UNSO will provide administrative support staff and labour costs; travel costs covering the movements of the project team (approximately 50 persons) to 250 project sites; consumable equipment, vehicles; operating and miscellaneous costs, as well as an agency support costs.

Financial data

	<u>UNDP</u>	<u>UNSO</u>
	\$	\$
Personnel	898 900	1 781 500
Training	-	250 000
Equipment	-	930 300
Miscellaneous	-	945 200
Support costs	-	499 800
Total	<u>898 900</u>	<u>4 406 800</u>

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